



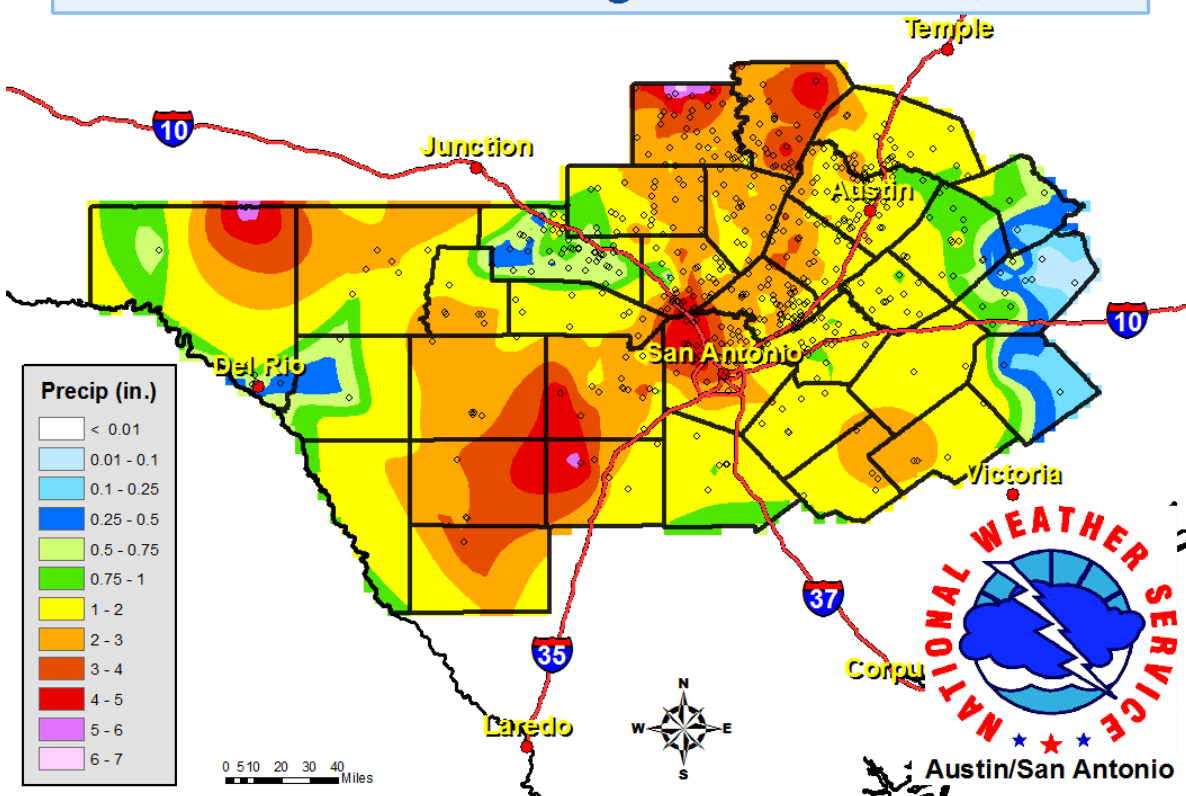
National Weather Service Austin-San Antonio TX



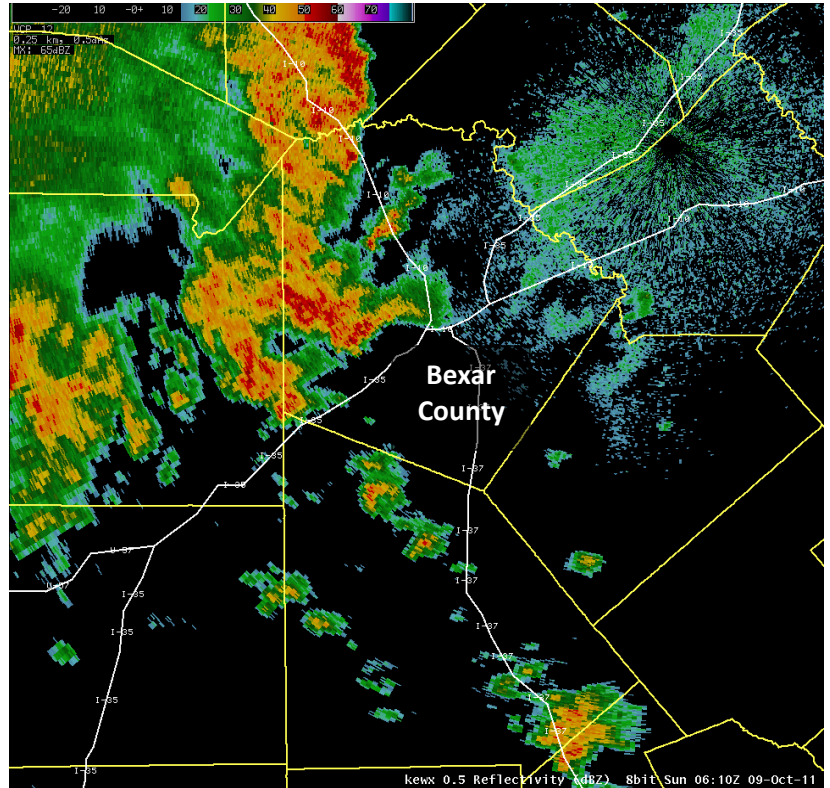
Tornado hits San Antonio...South Central Texas Soaks Up Some Much Needed Rain

A strong low pressure system over the western United States moved east over the weekend, helping to trigger showers and thunderstorms over South Central Texas on Saturday and Sunday, the 8th and 9th of October. The activity increased Saturday night as a large cluster of thunderstorms moved in from the west. The storms brought welcome rains across all of South Central Texas with widespread rain totals of 2 to 4 inches along with a few isolated spots reporting over 6 inches of rain. Along with some minor flooding issues, the storms also brought a tornado to the San Antonio area. There had not been a confirmed tornado in Bexar County since July of 2008.

24Hr Rainfall Ending 7AM Oct. 9, 2011



During the early morning hours on Sunday October 9, 2011, a tornado touched down at approximately 112 am on the southwest side of San Antonio. The tornado appears to have initially set down in the Ridgestone subdivision just south of Median Base Road near Loop 410. The tornado and parent thunderstorm then moved north northwest through the subdivision causing scattered damage to roofs, fences, and any item that wasn't tied down like trampolines and BBQs. This is also where a resident captured video of the tornado as it left the neighborhood and headed north.



Radar image taken at 110 am Sunday morning showing showers and thunderstorms over the western half of Bexar County.

Below you can see a still image of the tornado, seen as lightning highlights the tornado in the background. The photo is courtesy of the Daniel Martinez family and is taken via cell phone from the front of the Ridgestone subdivision looking north after the tornado had crossed through the neighborhood.



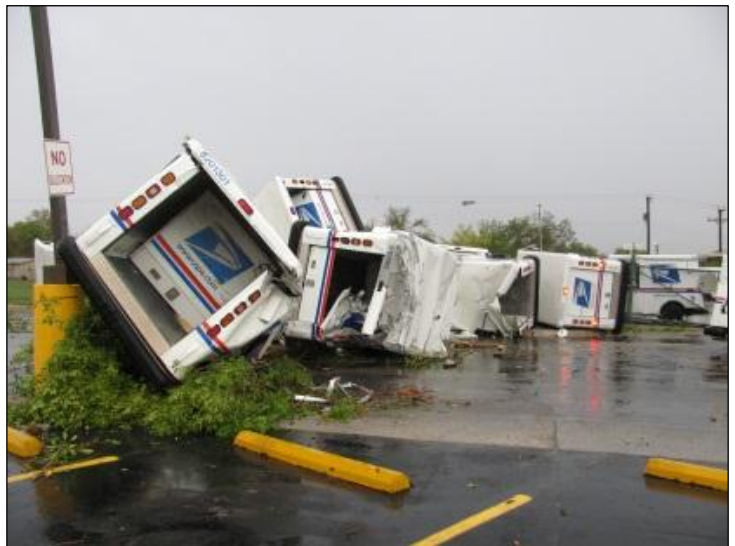
The tornado crossed Medina Base Road and headed north northwest into another neighborhood and affected residences along Heathers Cove. More roof and fence damage was observed. Here you can see the full force of flying debris with a section of fence skewered into a roof.



The tornado traveled up toward Valley Hi drive and caused additional damage along Parallel Road with several residences seeing damage to trees, carports, roofs, and vehicles. In one instance, a large section of roof was torn off a residence and thrown underneath a nearby car. The two pictures below were taken along Flair Drive.



The tornado continued to head north, crossed Aldrich Drive and went behind the U.S. Post office (5510 SW Loop 410) near the corner of Loop 410 and Valley Hi Drive. This corner has several businesses along with an H.E.B. grocery store. Several eyewitnesses at H.E.B. saw the tornado move through the parking lot and cause subsequent damage to over 20 postal trucks that were parked in the back of the Post Office. While several trucks were untouched, an entire row of vehicles were thrown up to 30 yards into another adjacent parking lot and grassy field. Fifteen postal trucks were a total loss. The postal building itself sustained little damage. The postal trucks weigh 2200 pounds each, showing the strength of wind associated with the tornado. This is where the tornado likely reached its peak intensity. The assessment of wind speed is still part of the ongoing investigation with this tornado track.



The tornado flipped over a garbage dumpster and sent a tree limb into the side of a business before crossing Valley Hi Drive. Flying debris is what typically kills people in tornadoes. Even winds as little as 50 mph can send items through the air, projectiles that will act like deadly missiles...don't get caught outside. Seek shelter indoors away from windows. There were several examples along this tornado track of projectiles penetrating roofs, cars, and windows.

The tornado crossed Valley Hi Drive where it produced mainly shingle and roof damage to two office buildings before moving over or very near the Sam Rayburn Middle School. While the school itself only suffered minor roof damage, there was damage to the construction site where a new school addition was being built.

Just north of the school, a home lost a section of roof at the corner of Cedarhurst and Gage Drives. The tornado then shifted a bit to the right of its northward track and crossed several more streets, causing more tree and roof damage to several residences. The tornado appears to have lifted or dissipated near the intersection of Springvale Drive and Allenhurst Drive.



Roof damage at a business along Valley Hi Drive

The Track...

Preliminary Track information...

- * Location ...1 to 1.5 miles west of Lackland AFB
- * Beginning Lat/Lon...29.366 N / -98.632 W
- * Ending Lat/Lon.....29.392 N / -98.642 W
- * Path Length.....2 MILES
- * Maximum Width.....50 YARDS
- * Injuries/deaths.....None
- * Estimated Start Date/Time...112 am October 9 2011
- * Estimated End Date/Time.....117 am October 9 2011
- * Maximum Winds/EF Scale.....Still under assessment. Majority of damage path was 70-85 mph (EF0).

